

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

UPDATED MARCH 31, 2021

To minimize the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, for the safety of our members and surrounding community, Council has adopted the following protocols. These protocols are effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

- In-person corporate worship services will be limited to a maximum of 75 people per service (15% capacity). Members and guests who are more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus or who have been feeling unwell during the week prior are advised to not attend in-person worship.
- Worship services will be held at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm. Both morning services and both afternoon services will have the same liturgy and sermon.
- An invitation for online sign-up will be sent via Church Social to two Wards per service. Members and guests are required to sign-up online so we can track our number of attendees.
- In-person worship attendees must follow these protocols:
 - *All attendees must wear a face covering unless they qualify for an exemption as our provincial and municipal face coverings legislation*
 - *The preacher and musician are excluded from having to wear face coverings as they will be within an area designated for them and not for public access*
 - *Members are asked to enter through the parking lot entrance doors (or the elevator entrance, if required). The front doors (closest to Stone Church Road) will be closed prior to the services.*
 - *Door greeters will be the only ones to touch the door handles*
 - *Members must maintain social distancing and sanitize their hands as they enter the foyer*
 - *Ushers will show members where they may sit in order to enable safe distancing*
 - *Only pews or chairs marked with a checkmark are to be used*
 - *Attendees who live in the same household may sit side-by-side, but all others are to maintain a distance of 2m from others*
 - *Attendees must leave the auditorium in single file and adhere to social distancing regulations*
 - *There will be no child care until further notice*
 - *Members are asked to use washrooms sparingly in order to reduce traffic downstairs*
 - *There will be no coffee socials until further notice*
 - *The kitchen, library, and nurseries will be off limits until further notice*
 - *The elevator will be used by only one person at a time*

- Between each service, special attention will be given by the caretakers to the cleaning and sanitation of the pews (backs and ends), door handles, the pulpit, sound booth, projection equipment, hand railings, washrooms. The music committee will be responsible for the cleaning of the musical instruments.
- To maintain social distancing, deaconry collections will be conducted through e-transfer for both in-person and virtual attendees during the regular offering time. Boxes will also be located at the auditorium entrances for in-person attendees who wish to donate by cash or cheque as they enter or exit the auditorium. Members are reminded to make it clear as to what their donation is for (if the donation is not for the deaconry).
- E-transfers can be sent to cornerstonecanrctreasurer@gmail.com and must be specified for the deaconry (no password required). Please note that donation receipts cannot be issued for deaconry funds
- Donation boxes (for church, school, CRWRF etc.) may be used as before
- For members of Wards not scheduled for in-person worship, livestream services will be available as usual for each worship service
 - *For those who have had trouble with the live stream, we encourage you to view the archived version which will be available on Livestream shortly after the service*
- Attestations will be processed and announced as usual
- Baptisms will be performed as usual. Members are requested to limit their outside family and guests attending to four people. Special requests for more guests can be made with their Ward Elders.
- Weekly church bulletins will be distributed via Church Social

OPERATION OF COUNCIL AND CONSISTORY

- All in-person meetings are cancelled until further notice. Virtual meetings will be held as needed.
- An Emergency Response Team has been formed consisting of Council executive, the chair of the deaconry, and br. Steve Mans, who works in the healthcare field
- The Emergency Response team will review this protocol document on a weekly basis and make and communicate adjustments as the situation evolves

CATECHISM AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES

- All instructional classes will be conducted in accordance with the current protocols in place for our local schools.

BIBLE STUDIES, CLUBS, AND COMMITTEES

- All in-person Bible studies, and club events are cancelled until further notice unless they qualify under the exemption for mental health and addiction support services

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- No in-person fellowship groups meetings are to be held at this time. All members are encouraged to maintain phone and virtual communication to encourage each other, especially seniors and other members who may be more isolated and vulnerable at this time.

PASTORAL CARE

- All regular in-person visits from elders and deacons are cancelled at this time
- Elders and deacons must ensure all senior members, and others who may be vulnerable, have access to the physical, mental, and spiritual support they need
- Elders and deacons must ensure all communications are delivered to members who do not receive Church Social messages

BUILDING USAGE

- No access will be granted to the church building except for worship services, instructional classes, or meetings that fit under the exemption for mental health and addiction support services

COMMUNICATION

- On-going communication about our COVID-19 protocols will be communicated via:
 - Church Social
 - Website
 - Social Media
 - Phone Calls (for members without access to the above methods)

If you have any questions or concerns about these protocols, please email the Emergency Response Team at clerk@cornerstonehamilton.ca.